



Dear GTHA Families,

We are writing today to clarify the Grand Traverse Hockey Association's move up policy in an attempt to offer clarity and transparency.

### **What is not a MAHA defined "Move Up"?**

If a first year Squirt, Pee Wee, or Bantam desires to tryout for a Squirt AA, Pee Wee AA, or Bantam AA team, that is not considered a move up. 10U is for 9 and 10 year old's, 12U is for 11 and 12 year old's, and 14U is for 13 and 14 year old players.

### **What is a "Move Up"?**

A move up would consist of a player in a lower age division that desires to move to a team in an older age division. In this case, a 10 year old Squirt that desires to play on a Pee Wee 12UA or a 12 year old PeeWee that desires to play on a Bantam 13UA team. The same rules apply within the Girls divisions, a 14U player that desires to play on the 16U Tier Two team would require Move Up approval.

### **What is the "Move Up" policy?**

GTHA's current move up policy is as follows, if you desire for your player to move up an age division, please follow the following steps:

1. Obtain a copy of the GTHA move up waiver from VP/Travel, Ryan Schook or VP/Girls Pgm, Meridith Falconer, reading completely, signing document acknowledging you understand what is communicated.
2. Return a copy of the signed document via email to the VP of the Travel Committee, Ryan Schook at [ryanschook@yahoo.com](mailto:ryanschook@yahoo.com) or VP of Girls Committee, Meridith Falconer, [merifalconer@gmail.com](mailto:merifalconer@gmail.com).
3. The applications will then be presented to the ACE committee for review.
4. If the ACE committee accepts your request for a tryout for "Move Up", it will be presented to the board for an approval of evaluation on July 12th.
5. If your child is accepted for evaluation, your child will attend the tryout and be evaluated by the head coach. An independent evaluation of underage players will take place by ACE Committee members to assist the head coach in the decision making process.
6. If your child is accepted onto a roster by the head coach, the board will finalize the approval process for your application based on the evaluator, head coach and coach coordinator recommendation. Historically the board has supported the coaches evaluations and roster selections.

If you fail to return the application, by the pre-appointed **deadline of 6/30/2021**, you will not be allowed to participate in tryouts for the upper age division. Timing is vital, this year GTHA is hosting Travel tryouts the first week of August, please see the web-site for additional details. A move up application does not guarantee a spot on the upper age group team, it simply permits your player to try-out for said team.

The head coaches are responsible for choosing their roster and are encouraged to take the most skilled and prepared players available. The head coach, when considering a move up will equally weigh the under-age player's ability and what is best for that player's development as well as the association.

GTHA takes move up requests very seriously, and we want to remind everyone that GTHA strives to ensure every player, at all development stages and skill levels, has a place to play hockey, improve, and thrive with all this great game has to offer.

Regards,

Fritz Heller, ACE Coordinator  
Grand Traverse Hockey Association

Ryan Schook, VP Travel Committee  
Grand Traverse Hockey Association

Meridith Falconer, VP Girls Committee  
Grand Traverse Hockey Association